

# **HOMEMAKERS' CLUBS OF SASKATCHEWAN 1911-1961**



**FOR HOME AND COUNTRY**



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# Dedication

TO THE WOMEN  
WHO HAVE PIONEERED IN THE WORK OF  
THE HOMEMAKERS' CLUBS  
OF SASKATCHEWAN





## FOREWORD

THE Saskatchewan Homemakers mark their fiftieth anniversary. They are in step with one another and go forward together. In retrospect the Homemakers view that dream of more than fifty years ago that became a concrete fact—the formation of the provincial Homemakers' organization.

Through the years club women have been responsible for community betterment and for bringing women together for social and mental stimulation.

Today they continue to create a richness within their cultural heritage. The Homemakers have played an important part in the development of Saskatchewan and are proud of their half century of building.

Homemakers look to the years ahead. Tomorrow's achievement will be the recognition of their role in the changing pattern of our society. With this change march the Homemakers. They will play an important role in the tomorrows with their program which answers the need of the new life, a way of life which is always striving toward improvements.

"Retrospect and Prospect"—the silver cord and the golden chain—presented the first twenty-five years of the Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs.

"Saskatchewan Homemakers, 1911-1961" reviews again the beginning and the early years and continues the story of the Saskatchewan Homemakers.

Homemakers! With this history we face the future with steady eyes and confident hearts.—HESTER SHULVER.





## *Greetings from The University*

*From the beginning the Homemakers' Clubs have been closely associated with the University of Saskatchewan, particularly with the College of Agriculture and the Department of Extension. Greatly valued are these messages from the University sent to the Homemakers on the occasion of their fiftieth anniversary.*

DR. J. W. T. SPINKS

PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

**F**OR over 50 years, the University has served the people of this province in a variety of ways—by providing teaching and research facilities and by carrying some of its work to the community. This latter aspect of the work of the University has been greatly helped and facilitated by the ready co-operation of the Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs. Through meetings in the country and on the campus, the ties of friendship have been strengthened until the relationship approaches that of real affection.

May I, on behalf of the University, extend to you, on your fiftieth anniversary, our hearty congratulations on a job well done with best wishes for the next fifty.

—J. W. T. SPINKS



DR. J. W. T. SPINKS

DR. V. E. GRAHAM  
DEAN, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

ALL rural people in Saskatchewan are proud of the record of service which has been chalked up by the Homemakers' Clubs of the province. The University of Saskatchewan is also proud of the fact that it has had the opportunity to identify itself with the establishment, expansion and development of Homemakers' Clubs during the past fifty years. During this period the impact of your activities on the lives of the people of rural Saskatchewan has been very real and very great.

The people of Saskatchewan have enjoyed the experience of celebrating a number of fiftieth anniversaries in recent years. In 1955, it was the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the province; in 1959, it was the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the University of Saskatchewan, and there have been many others. This year the fiftieth anniversary of your organization is being singled out for special attention. These "golden jubilees" are an indication that, as a province, we have grown to a state of reasonable maturity. Of course, I am not suggesting that any member of a Homemakers' Club has reached that golden age!



DR. V. E. GRAHAM

What is the significance of a golden jubilee? It seems to me that it is a stock-taking time. It is a time to take a look at the successes and the joys and the disappointments and failures of the past fifty years. And in the light of what is revealed in such an analysis, it is a time to dream of, and plan for, the future.

During the past fifty years the University has shared in your joys and your disappointments. Fortunately, the latter have been very few.

We look forward to another fifty years of close co-operation with the Homemakers' Clubs of Saskatchewan. On behalf of the University I extend our sincere congratulations on your accomplishments during the past half-century and to express the hope that the next fifty years will be as fruitful and rewarding as the past have been. I also assure you we will assist in any way we can to contribute to the success of your endeavours.—V. E. GRAHAM.

## PROFESSOR RUPERT D. RAMSAY

DIRECTOR OF EXTENSION SERVICES

**F**IFTY years ago a few women and men had a vision of group activity for rural home improvement. Saskatchewan, a wide open community, still in the formative stages in 1911, responded and a healthy, vigorous, service-giving Homemakers' group evolved.

Fifty years ago problems of transportation and communication were major obstacles to the transfer of ideas and objectives from one area to another. Today the problems have changed and are more complex but none the less challenging.

Early development of the Homemakers' Clubs recalls names like: Lillian Beynon, Mary Mantle, Nellie McClung, Cora Hind, Abigail DeLury and Motherwell, Murray, Auld and Rutherford. These people laid the foundation in many fields and their vision has been caught and carried by succeeding officers of the Homemakers' Clubs. Their leadership and inspiration made the "spirit" that really is Saskatchewan.

It can be said with sincerity, that the Homemakers' Clubs are highly respected in this province and have been for fifty years. This must mean that you have clung to the objectives that are worth while and have given needed service and leadership in times of peace, war, and international unrest, your groups have not been found wanting. You have not divided people but rather merged them.

Congratulations to you on your 50th Birthday Anniversary and may your foresight, vision and leadership continue to be as effective as it has in the past.



PROFESSOR RUPERT D. RAMSAY

—RUPERT D. RAMSAY.

## PROFESSOR MARGARET H. PATTILLO

DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S SERVICE

**I**t is an achievement for any organization to find itself with a fifty-year history. Each member can be proud that, women working together in clubs, have taken action for "Home and Country" which has made their homes and communities better places in which to live.

During the fifty years, Homemakers' and Women's Service (or the Department of Women's Work as it was called until 1949) have endeavored to promote new ideas, new skills, and understandings of homemaking and daily living. The success that has been achieved in this is due in large measure to the energy and awareness of Homemakers.

As Homemakers embark on their second half century, let us as a team—Homemakers' and Women's Service—endeavor to see the needs of women and family life in our changing way of living, and to share in appropriate and effective programs, remembering that—

"Men cannot achieve happiness at the expense of their brothers. All must go forward in the path together or the shadows before the feet of one will invade the sunshine in which the other walks."

—MARGARET H. PATTILLO



MARGARET H. PATTILLO



## PROFESSOR L. E. KIRK

DEAN OF AGRICULTURE, 1937-1947

**C**IVIC movements which help to mould social life are of great significance in a pioneer country during its formative years. Since Saskatchewan became a Province in 1905 a multiplicity of diverse organizations have come and gone, each having played a more or less important role in making the Province what it is today.

As we look back over the last fifty years, one of these organizations stands out in strong relief for length and continuity of service, dedication to ideals of social welfare, and adherence to principles of self-help in promoting all that is best in education, citizenship, community enterprise and better living conditions. Such an organization is the Saskatchewan Homemakers which this year celebrates its Golden Jubilee.



PROF. L. E. KIRK

This occasion certainly calls for hearty congratulations and for the earnest hope that the Homemakers' Clubs will continue in the future to make the same kind of contribution to rural welfare in Saskatchewan as they have done with such notable success during the past fifty years.—L. E. KIRK.



## *Greetings from the Presidents*

**F**OR this Golden Jubilee book, compiled as the Saskatchewan Homemakers celebrate their fiftieth anniversary, the women who have served as provincial presidents of the organization have sent their greetings.

It was several years after their formation before the Homemakers' Clubs decided to elect provincial officers, mainly to act at the annual convention and occasionally to be ready to address meetings or act in an advisory capacity.

The honor of being the first elected president fell to one who is no longer with us, Mrs. W. F. Cameron, of Davidson, whose term of office covered the years 1918-1923, with a vacancy from 1920-21. To her and to other presidents who have passed on, an "In Memoriam" is included.

Through the years the office of Homemakers' president has carried with it new duties and ever increasing responsibilities. Each presidential message has its own point of view, each carries an expression of pride in the work of the Homemakers and of faith in the future of the organization.

## ELIZABETH GOW CAMERON (Mrs. W. F.)

(Davidson)

President, 1918-1920, 1921-1923

MRS CAMERON was born and educated in Scotland. At the age of 18 she received the L.L.A. degree with Distinction from the University of St. Andrews. In 1911 she married W. F. Cameron, a young lawyer, together they came to Davidson, Sask., in 1914. She was always interested in the affairs of her community and she immediately found a place in all the welfare efforts of her town and the Province.

The first president of Saskatchewan Homemakers, she served two terms, 1918-1920, and 1921-1923. Mrs. Cameron was one of the founders of F.W.I.C. and served as convention secretary at the organization meeting, later becoming national president. She held Life membership in Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs; F.W.I.C.; University Women's Club; Regina Council of Women; Women's Missionary Society and the W. C.T.U. Because of her active interest in the Women's Clubs of Saskatchewan and Canada



ELIZABETH GOW CAMERON

she was awarded the Queen's Medal. Mrs. Cameron edited "Retrospect and Prospect," a brief history of the first 25 years of Homemakers' Clubs.

In 1930, the Camerons moved to Regina. Here Mrs. Cameron, a tireless, devoted worker, entered new fields of endeavour. Ever a champion of women's rights she urged them to take their place in social and political obligations. During the last years of her life, she was badly crippled by arthritis and hampered by failing eyesight, still she insisted on doing her share in group activity. In her record of her life membership are these words so typical of her life work, "To go my way to the end, then rest."

So it was with her, she entered into rest April, 1959.

MAUD McAUSLAN (Mrs. R. J.)

(Adanac)

President, 1923-1926

MRS. McAUSLAN was the first president of the Swarthmore Homemakers' Club organized in 1914. She served on the district executive as president, secretary and on occasion as convener of several standing committees. The district presented her with a life membership in 1941. Previous to that date she served three year terms, first as provincial president, later as convention secretary.

She gave herself unstintly to the many tasks she undertook. She held a place in the community and hearts of its people, few could fill, hers was the many acts of kindness, the healing faith. Through her direction agricultural projects of Homemakers of Saskatchewan were planned for the children and youth of the community. The W. M. S. and Sunday School also came under her influence.



MAUD McAUSLAN

In her message to "Retrospect and Prospect", she urged us to look backward to gain help and inspiration from the achievements and failures of the past—to look around to gain a clear vision of the future work to be done—to look forward, that we may so educate, organize and inspire, that in coming years as Canada calls her women to even greater responsibilities, we may be prepared mentally, morally and physically to do the work entrusted to us.

The following little poem, a favorite of hers, aptly describes her philosophy of life.

*To labour with zest and give of one's best  
For the sweetness and joy of the giving,  
To help folks along with a hand and a song  
Why that's the real sunshine of living.*

MRS. H. DUCIE

(Dundurn)

President, 1926-1929

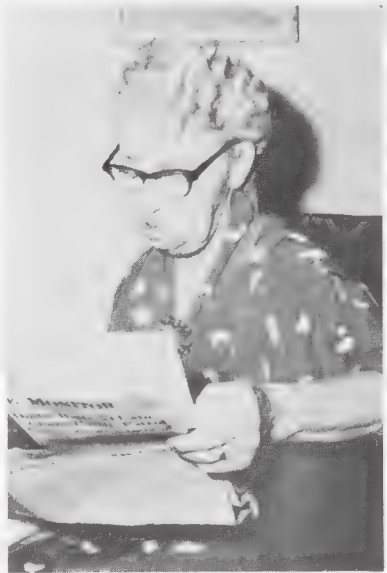
WE have now come to an important milestone in our history as an organization. Milestone is a word full of mystery and magic. It may suggest the end of an epoch, a parting of the ways, or as with us, a jubilee, but innate in its significance is the idea of taking stock, of looking backward and of looking forward.

It was in 1913 that we organized our club at Coates and in 1936 that the Homemakers took quite a good look at themselves. Now it is 1961 and we are due for another self-appraisal. I feel that "we have been long together through pleasant and through cloudy weather."

In the messages which our past presidents have written to you, including the one from Mrs. Shulver who is still president *de facto*, there are recorded with pride, your aims and purposes and some of your achievements. I am proud of them too, but shall not duplicate them here.

Concluding my message to you, I would like to quote from a rectorial address which Sir James Barrie gave to the students at St. Andrews University some years ago. This was subsequent to the First World War and Sir James had been speaking of "courage—the lovely virtue." The Homemakers of Saskatchewan have never lacked for courage. And so I say to you as Sir James said to the students at that time, "Courage, my children, and greet the unseen with a cheer."

--E. DUCIE, Saskatoon.



E. DUCIE

MRS. S. STOLTZ

(Nokomis)

President, 1929-1930

THE Mount Hope Club was organized at my home, June 28th, 1916, and the annual meeting was held in my home at Eureka Farm each year until we retired from the farm in 1943.

Many activities have been assumed by the club as the daughters of the original members took up the torch, but the main thought and purpose of the club work remains the same—to establish better homes. Homes that contribute to the material and cultural well-being of those that dwell therein, where love and understanding abide—where the young can seek and find wise counsel—where families can find quietness and understanding—a refuge from a fast moving world with its confusing cults and isms.

The effort of the clubs throughout these fifty years lead to the goal of Better Homes and a stronger Canada and thus fulfill our motto: For Home and Country.

—PEARL STOLTZ, Nokomis.



PEARL STOLTZ



## MRS. JOHN TELFORD

(Pelly)

President, 1930-1934

THOSE who have lived through the years 1911-1961 have witnessed the greatest days of human history. . . . In our Western world technological development has lifted the burden of work—in field and factory, in forest and mine. Even in the home we live in, a new work environment with our electric lights, washers, frigidaire, our thermostat furnaces (how different from the old wood or coal stove). But these wonderful advances have brought their problems of unemployment.

In the realm of entertainment we have cinema—possibly already reaching obsolescence. We have radio and television—I never cease to marvel that we have harnessed these forces of the universe, forever with us, but so recently made available for our use.

We have broken the atom and released its incredible power, but we have not decided to use that power for man's development rather than for his destruction. From the "horse and buggy" days to the jet liner we have passed in these few years.

But with all this environmental change human nature has not changed. We have the same noble desire to help the less fortunate, witness our amazing expansion of the health and social services, we have, too, the same selfish indifference to the welfare of others. We have the same outreach to distant peoples, we have, too, the same narrow prejudices and hatreds. It takes a long time to raise the standards of the heart. Yet we are on the march.

And in Saskatchewan the Homemakers have played no small part in broadening and deepening the interests of the maker and sustainer of the home—the mother. May we go forward with the same zeal, always adapting our methods and emphases to evolving problems as they develop.—GERTRUDE S. TELFORD, Regina.



GERTRUDE S. TELFORD

## MRS. A. J. CURRIE

(Govan)

President, 1934-1937

“**N**OTHING is so powerful as an idea that is born into its time.” How true this has proved of the Women’s Institute Movement. In its phenomenal growth it has encircled the globe in six short decades. It has enlisted millions of members, all of whom are vitally interested in better family living and a better understanding of the world in which we live.

For five of those decades our Saskatchewan Homemakers’ Clubs have been an integral part of this vast educational enterprise and have contributed immeasurably to its achievements.

Courageous pioneers who remained undaunted through many adverse circumstances built a firm foundation. Unhampered and uninfluenced by party, race or creed, they planned and put into effect programs which had far-reaching effects. Social, economic and educational conditions were studied. Greater interest was aroused in laws, child welfare, good literature, music, handicrafts and the fine arts. Community enterprises were encouraged and all forms of adult education.

These studies and projects have continued through the years with ever-widening horizons promising well for the future.

What have we as individual members learned from all this growth and giving of self? Are we willing to forget what we have done for the organization and remember what it has done for us? To put our rights in the background with tolerance and advance our duties to the foreground; to close our book of complaints against existing ills and look about for opportunities to plant some seeds of happiness?

If so, then with courage we can look to the future for further achievement and can say with David Livingstone, “I am ready to go anywhere, provided it be forward.”—ISABEL CURRIE, Govan.



ISABEL CURRIE

## MRS. J. R. NEAR

(Pinkham)

President, 1937-1940

THE Saskatchewan Homemaker of 1911 was, often, a lonely person, far from neighbors and church, and had little social life. It was a wonderful experience when a Homemakers' Club was organized in the community. Only those who had that experience can know how sweet were the friendships thus formed. Many lived twenty to thirty miles from the nearest store and fresh fruit and other groceries were not readily available. The Homemaker was kept busy in the home, baking bread and caring for the needs of the family and attending to the chores that were the responsibility of the rural women. These chores often meant heavy manual labor as the rural home was not equipped with many labor - saving devices. When shopping day came, she would go to the pasture, catch her driving horse, hitch it to the buggy and drive to town in the heat of the day so that she might be home to make supper and help attend to the evening chores. Meanwhile, her husband was busy on the land or away earning a few dollars to help keep the home fires burning.



BESSIE NEAR

Fifty years later we find many of our Homemakers enjoying the comforts and convenience of electric equipment in the home and the facilities of modern transportation.

The early Homemaker, no matter how busy she was, always had time to help a neighbor in distress and when war broke out in 1914, she helped with Red Cross work, knitting, sewing and raising money, thus living up to our motto, "For Home and Country."

In 1922 when the standing convenerships were set up in our organization, the preparation of papers was simplified as we could obtain information on any subject from the extension department. This greatly assisted us to develop a higher standard of living in the home and a more efficient organization.

I wish to express my appreciation for the loving help contributed by our one-time director, Professor Bertha Oxner.

In thinking back over the time I was president, I am reminded of the visit to Canada in 1938 of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (now Queen Mother), a few days before our provincial convention, Mr. Ashley Cooper, the Hudson Bay factor, had presented King George with the traditional two black beaver skins, at Winnipeg. The Ashley Coopers were travelling through Saskatoon and upon hearing that our convention was opening that day, Mrs. Ashley Cooper who was an ardent Institute member in England and a good friend of our Queen called in on us. Just after we had opened the session there was a stir of excitement at the door and Miss Oxner was called from the platform. In a few minutes she came up the aisle, followed by the gracious Lady. Miss Oxner told me who she was and I was to introduce her to the convention. I can't remember what I said but I got through it some way and we were all pleased to have the friend of our gracious Queen address us. One of our New Canadian women came to me and said in broken English, "I want to shake your hand, then I not wash mine till I get home. I tell my family I shook your hand that shook the hand of our Queen's friend."

The Homemakers have done much to create a better understanding among the people of different nationalities in our Province.

The Homemaker of today has the same kindly spirit of neighborliness. She has more time for community work, 4-H, Home and School, educational matters, the study of local, national and international affairs.

May God continue to prosper the work of the Saskatchewan Homemakers' organization.—BESSIE NEAR, Kindersley.

## MRS. P. COLLIER

(Bracken)

President, 1940-1942

THE Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs over the past fifty years, have played a consistently constructive role in the economic, educational, cultural and social life of this Province. This contribution was made possible, in no small measure, by the wise and visionary leadership offered by the University and the creative talents and resilient intelligence of the women from within the rural areas. They, in conjunction with the University, prepared a blue print for a richer and fuller life in the country and then translated it into workable realities.

In retrospect the road was often difficult but the history of the achievements of the Homemakers' Clubs reveals that difficulties were challenges. These were met with renewed stamina, greater resourcefulness, psychological endurance and a deep-rooted philosophy of life. At times the Homemakers faltered and became discouraged, but even in the long periods of drought, pestilence of grasshoppers and sand storms and real deprivation, the Homemakers sponsored some of their most imaginative and finest projects—in adult education; in health services (eye and dental clinics, well-baby clinics, etc.,) and in the cultural field (drama and musical festivals, etc.).

In prospect the road ahead seems perilous. If this road is to lead to Peace it will require a re-affirmation of our faith in the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. A re-dedication of ourselves as individuals is essential if we hope to understand, guide and support others travelling this road.

Is, then, the greatest challenge of 1961—to think, talk and act as world citizens?

"We shall survive only as a human race."

Congratulations and Best Wishes.

—CATHERINE R. COLLIER, Vancouver.



CATHERINE R. COLLIER



## MRS. C. E. MEDLAND

(Punnichy)

President, 1942-1944

**T**HINKING over old times in connection with Saskatchewan Homemakers, some things stand out in my memory. . . . Our first trip from Punnichy to attend the convention in the old model T Ford, a blown-out tire and the frantic hunt for the jack which was left behind.

Pyjama parades in Saskatchewan Hall and an hilarious mock wedding in the common room.

Nellie McClung addressing the convention, looking regal in black with a large picture hat which she promptly removed and placed on the table becoming one with the rest of us.

Miss Oxner, at council meetings before the convention, training us to think for ourselves, which we possibly did not appreciate so much at the time, but I for one, do now.

A photo of grandmothers at convention in which I was proud to be included. I now qualify in the great-grandmothers class.

Small treasured memories of happy days.



EDITH MEDLAND

—EDITH MEDLAND,  
Saskatoon.

## MRS. ERIC GIVEN

(Colleston)

President, 1944-1946

It was my privilege to serve as provincial president during the closing year of the Second World War and the beginning of the post-war reconstruction period. These were difficult times but I believe they brought out the best in our members. I found that being leader of our great organization of rural women was a challenging experience which I shall treasure all my life. The associations with Miss Oxner and her staff and with the other members of the Advisory Council have brought me friendships of life-long standing. The privilege of attending the Federated Women's Institute of Canada Board meetings in Victoria in 1945 and in Halifax in 1947, made me keenly aware of the extent and possibilities of our work.

Later, in 1953, I had the great honour of being a voting delegate at the meeting of the Associated Country Women of the World in Toronto. This was an experience I had never hoped for or expected and one I could only wish all Homemakers might have.

During my term of office I was keenly aware of my own inadequacies and many times wished for more knowledge and wisdom, but if I made even a small contribution to our work, I am thankful.

The character of and need for our clubs has changed much during the last fifty years. Rural life is different now—our horizons have widened and our sights have been lifted. May our organization continue to play a vital role in the life of our Province and our Dominion, for years to come. —MARGARET GIVEN, Prince Albert.



MARGARET GIVEN

## MRS. S. J. HILL

(Bladworth)

President, 1946-1948

THE Provincial President of Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs finds her life enriched by the many experiences which come to her and no amount of service can repay the debt she owes. The memories of my term are quite vivid. Mrs. Charles Russell came to us with her thrilling story of the office staff in London, England, who had remained steadfast through the war, that women of the world might have a connecting link to start building anew. The women of Holland in spite of privations and sorrow invited A.C.W.W. to hold its first post-war meeting in Amsterdam. Mrs. Raymond Sayre, President of the A.C.W.W., visited us and left that oft repeated, inspiring little quote, "Start where you are—with what you have."

At this time several attempts were made to establish a two-year course in homemaking comparable to the two-year course in agriculture. No funds were available and short courses continued the order of the day. Adult education conferences were held and several rural groups organized. As provincial convener of education in the Council of Women and as a member of

Saskatchewan Film Board, I met many leaders of other provincial groups. When the Wartime Prices and Trade Board dissolved, I represented Saskatchewan women at the organization of Canadian Association of Consumers. I gained much from my attendance at F.W.I.C. executive meeting in Halifax and had my first glimpse of the vast harbour and mighty ocean beyond.

Now how nice to relax, to pass the torch on to others and watch the ever expanding influence of Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs, to be able to say to Saskatchewan women, "what it has done for me, it can do for thee."—ALICE HILL, Bladworth.



ALICE HILL

DR. (Mrs. J. W.) ADAMS

(Ethelton)

President, 1948-1951

FROM travelling by team and sleigh to the meetings of the Ethelton Homemakers' Club that first winter of 1938 to travelling by jet to the executive meeting of the Associated Country Women of the World in January, 1961, has been a long and eventful journey in the life of this Saskatchewan Homemaker. Each new venture is begun with the same misgivings and the same fearful hopes as I experienced the day I picked up the reins on the team of frisky drivers which took us to the Ethelton meeting.

Home base remains on our farm in the Carrot River Valley where a family unit of four replaces the original two.

From president of the local club to area vice-president of the International Organization has been a long road of study and effort, in which I have been upheld by the co-operation of my husband and family, the support and faith of fellow members and by a firm conviction that fundamental and further education of all the members of our society is necessary if we are going to learn to live together.

Our world has changed since the beginnings of Saskatchewan Homemaker Clubs but today the need is even greater that we know how to think and work together, that we have the best possible advice on the routine and skills of our basic tasks, and that we use all the time we can muster and all the ability and training we can acquire that we may grow to the stature of our environment. Thus we may build together, better homes, better communities, and a better world.—NANCY ADAMS, Ethelton.



NANCY ADAMS

MRS. T. H. ENTWISTLE  
(Parkman)

President, 1951-1953

**I**t gives me great pleasure to be asked to contribute to our 50th Anniversary Jubilee Book.

*"If you've started for a goal  
Keep at it:*

*With your mind and heart and soul  
Keep at it:*

*Make mistakes as people must,  
But get up and shake the dust  
From your garments, and then just  
Keep at it:*

*When you've learned where you are  
weak  
Keep at it:*

*You can win the joy you seek  
Keep at it:*

*Study, practice, think and plan  
Make yourself a better man  
Keep at it."*



MARY ENTWISTLE

The above quotation in every way seems to fit the role of the Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs. In the past fifty years they have contributed to the betterment of their homes, their communities and their country and it was only their spirit of purpose and accomplishment that enabled many of us to "keep at it" especially during the long, hard, dry years of the hungry thirties.

Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs with the help of the University Extension Services blazed the trail for adult education in our Province. They have always been aware of the need to keep themselves informed on what is going on, what is new and what can be done in the fields of agriculture, health, education, arts and literature, international relations, legislation and home economics.

During the past few years I feel that the individual member has become more aware of our work as a Dominion and world-wide organization; this is a good thing as our world grows smaller every year and it behooves us all to strive towards the goal of international sisterhood if we would preserve the "Peace of the World."

I have always been proud to be a member of the Saskatchewan Homemakers and firmly believe that for each one of us being a member makes us a better wife, a better mother and a better citizen in our communities.

Let us, each and every one, strive to always live up to our Creed.

May we make our tomorrows even more outstanding in our accomplishments than we have our yesterdays, and go forward with a purpose of spirit to do all in our power to make this world a better place for our children to live in.—MARY ENTWISTLE, Parkman.



## MRS. W. A. THOMSON

(Pense)

President, 1953-1955

**A**DULT education in rural areas, the work of the Homemakers' Clubs, has always been of great interest to me. My mother attended the first historic gathering held in Regina in 1911 and bits and pieces of the happiness of that meeting impressed me as a child. After my marriage I moved to Pense and had the opportunity to become a member of this strong well-organized club that has flourished since 1910.

It was a privilege to serve as provincial president from 1953-1955. My years on the Executive Board were busy ones. Among the many interesting projects that were under way at that time were the A.C.W.W. Conference in Toronto, Saskatchewan's Jubilee celebrations, the publication of our cook book "From Saskatchewan Homemakers' Kitchens" and the proceedings and findings of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. These projects were the highlights of the Homemakers' program during those years.

The many Homemakers' activities have provided the opportunity to develop friends in ever-widening circles, culminating in the A.C.W.W. Conference in Ceylon and contacts with women on the trip around the world—a never to be forgotten experience—the privilege of being your provincial president.—EUPHIE THOMSON, Pense.



EUPHIE THOMSON

## MRS. W. L. (ISABEL) CLARK

(Conquest)

President, 1955-1957

"I LEARNED that being a Homemaker meant that it lifted one's vision beyond the home and community, to an international level and gave me an excellent opportunity to meet friends both near and far—all working for the same objective—for Home and Country." These were words spoken by Isabel Clark and she, through her years of service demonstrated how true they were.

Her record as secretary at all levels, local, district, provincial, where she served 15 years, later as national, has never been equalled. As F.W.I.C. secretary, she took part in planning and carrying out the first national meeting held in Ottawa in 1957. She served also as president, locally to provincially. Twice she was a delegate to A.C.W.W., attending the Conference in Toronto in 1953 and Ceylon in 1957.



ISABEL CLARK

Mrs. Clark was born at Conquest, Sask. She spent most of her life there. She rendered outstanding service to her community. Her interest centered about youth. She was superintendent of the Junior Sunday School and leader of the junior choir. She was tireless in her work, the correspondence she handled as secretary of F.W.I.C. was prodigious. Her lasting memorial will be in the lives of the many women with whom she came into contact.

She passed away suddenly in September, 1960.

MRS. J. A. FREEBORN

(Saskatoon)

President, 1957-1959

*In vain, we build the world*

*Unless the builder also grows.*

**D**UE to the loyalty, tolerance, mutual exchange of experiences and courage of our pioneer members, we can now, after fifty years, review with pride the achievements of the Homemakers' Clubs of Saskatchewan. Because of our affiliation with the Associated Country Women of the World, our motto, "For Home



JANET FREEBORN

and Country," has taken on a broader meaning and we adapt our thinking to matters which concern, not only Saskatchewan women, but women of other races and creeds from other countries. We are learning to appreciate and understand their problems and they, ours.

It was an inspiration and an honour to attend, as a voting delegate, the Associated Country Women of the World Conference in Edinburgh in August, 1959, at which one of the highlights was the inauguration of the Lady Aberdeen Scholarship. We learned, too, the great part the donation of our Pennies for Friendship played in the conduct of the business of the Associated Country Women of the World. Through A.C.W.W. we

have representation at the United Nations Assembly.

It was my good fortune to represent the Homemakers of Saskatchewan at the Federated Womens' Institutes of Canada Board Meeting in Winnipeg in 1956, and also the first National Conference in Ottawa in 1958. These occasions provided many new friendships and happy memories. It was in 1958 that the National Office was established in Ottawa.

With the changing times, our role as women has altered. We must of necessity change our attitudes and expand our thinking and ideas and accept the responsibility of sincere understanding and leadership, not only at the local level but in world affairs.

To you, who must needs carry on the work of this great organization, my wish to the Homemakers of Saskatchewan is this, "May we, as each new challenge rises over our broadening horizon, be prepared to meet them as effectively and with as much real courage and dignity as that shown by our pioneers."

—JANET FREEBORN, Saskatoon.

## MRS. C. SHULVER

(Woodrow)

President, 1959-1961

**I**N Regina, on January 31 to February 3, 1911, isolated local rural women's clubs who were making effective and solid contributions in their home communities united with a common motto, "For Home and Country." Thus the Homemakers' Clubs of Saskatchewan were born. . . The basic aims of Homemakers to train leaders, to improve skills in homemaking, and to make communities better places in which to live, remain the same as they were in the yesteryear, when Homemakers' Clubs came into being. Today, these objectives are applicable with their added impetus. The aims are strengthened, broadened and have depth of meaning far beyond the vision of that first group of women.

In agriculture we set out our improved farming practices to elevate our whole social structure. With our experience and knowledge, gleaned through our club work, we tell of our successes to others and ask help for our problems from specialized sources. The information, so necessary to retain a stabilized agriculture, is extended in an ever-widening circle.

Home economics and public health become synonymous in effort of presentation and usage of reliable methods to perpetuate a healthier, happier nation.

Through arts and literature, our bits and pieces of culture are gathered, as a mosaic in Saskatchewan, to keep what is good of all segments of our heterogeneous communities. A fineness in the beauty of living is a goal of club members.

The women who are Homemakers know that membership in our organization presents an interest and study which is adult education. When our knowledge is greater, and the requirements of society understood more thoroughly, we are better prepared to point up to our youth the need of formal education.

Citizenship and legislation is an all encompassing convenership to Homemakers. Good citizenship makes us free when freedom is



HESTER SHULVER

founded upon respect for moral and spiritual values. Studying the rule of law gives us an opportunity to know how to become better citizens.

There is a realization among the Club members that the world is our home. A peaceful co-existence with Homemakers the world over begins at the very foundation of our organizational society. In international relations, through the Associated Country Women of the World, Homemakers are assisting in the Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund for the extension of adult education into other countries. In this way we work for the betterment of living conditions, by providing buildings for health and nutritional classes, children with suitable clothes for school, and by encouraging more stable marriage relations.

There is a responsibility for the execution of these fields of endeavor. They are the open doors through which we enter to full membership in Homemakers' Clubs . . . "For their work continueth, broad and deep."

For the first time, since the shift in the changing population pattern became apparent in Saskatchewan, there has been an upswing in the organization of new clubs. After fifty years of progress the solid principles of Homemakers' Clubs offer constancy in agricultural Saskatchewan.

Beyond 1961—what?

My prognosis for the future outlook of Homemakers' Clubs is bright. Homemakers have the fundamental gift for living naturally in an interdependent society. With confidence and respect, Homemakers have judgment and courage to go forward, pledging strength, breadth and depth to their positions. Let us know where we are going and take up the task to assure the success of our valuable heritage as members of Homemakers' Clubs.

My hope for all of our clubs is a way of life which is always striving for improvement.—HESTER SHULVER, Woodrow.



# Half a Century

## THE BEGINNING



HOMEMAKERS IN CONVENTION AT REGINA, JAN. 31 - FEB. 3, 1911

ON the last day of January, 1911, a memorable group came together in Regina. These were the women delegates to the first Homemakers' Club Convention held in the Province of Saskatchewan. Strictly speaking, they came as representatives of a number of isolated women's groups and went home as members of a provincial organization. Forty-two women representing 18 centres in the province registered at this first convention held in the Collegiate Institute in Regina.

In the weeks preceding the convention, a series of meetings had been held at a number of points on the Canadian Pacific Railway line east of Regina. These meetings had been arranged by Mr. F. Hedley Auld, at the time director of extension work at the University of Saskatchewan and of agricultural societies in the province. Mr. Auld pointed out to the women attending that first convention that agricultural extension work had been directed to the needs of the farmers with the aim of making farming profitable—now it was proposed to give assistance to the women of Saskatchewan with the hope of making farm life “comfortable, pleasant and enjoyable.”

The special speaker at these country meetings was Miss Lillian Beynon (later Mrs. A. V. Thomas of Winnipeg but then well-known by her pen-name of “Lillian Laurie” which she used in conducting

the women's pages in the Manitoba Free Press). Miss Beynon had had previous experience with the Women's Institutes of Ontario and the groups organized under her direction were modelled after those of the older province.

Miss Beynon chaired most of the convention sessions but when she rose to speak on "Women's Clubs: Their Nature and Purpose" the chair was occupied by Mrs. A. G. Thorburn, president of the Broadview Women's Club, whom Mr. Auld spoke of as the first president of the first women's club in Saskatchewan.

At the first session the convention appointed a committee headed by Miss Beynon, to recommend a constitution for Homemakers' Clubs. On the committee were: Mrs. Percy Argue, Grenfell; Mrs. A. G. Hawkes, Broadview; Mrs. F. J. Dash, Hillesden; Mrs. Will Hardy, McLean; Mrs. Lorne K. Elliott, Winnipeg; Mrs. J. M. White, Moosomin; Mrs. H. Coy, Grenfell; Mrs. R. A. Magee, Wolesey; Mrs. D. J. Christie, Bladworth.

The constitution began "The object of the homemakers' clubs of Saskatchewan shall be to promote the interests of the home and community." It was unanimously adopted by the convention.

The second clause stated "A homemakers' club may be organized in any public school district" and for many years clubs tended to be formed within the area of a school district or districts.

Looking back on that convention 25 years later, at the time of the Homemakers' Silver Jubilee, Lillian Beynon Thomas wrote:

"Dreams and reality walked hand in hand as the women of Saskatchewan faced biting winds and flurries of snow on their way to the first Homemakers' Convention in Regina, in 1911. Dreams overshadowed reality because the West was still young and romance filled the air.

"Clothes at that convention represented the fashions for 10 or 15 years before, as many women wore what they brought from the east, or from the old country when they came out as pioneer settlers. Some drove oxen to the



LILLIAN BEYNON THOMAS

station where they got the train for Regina. Money was scarce, terribly scarce, but every woman there was wealthy. Her wealth consisted of dreams and when was money ever worth the pale shadow of a dream?

“To outsiders we no doubt looked a very ordinary group of women, but we knew we were not ordinary. As we listened to lectures, we knew we were building a nation. We knew the future would depend on our foundations. If they were weak, the purpose of every woman there, the purpose to make a better world for her children and others, would fail.”

Lillian Beynon Thomas kept up active interest in the Homemakers for many years and was a beloved visitor at many of the early conventions.

Another speaker at the first convention was Miss Mary D. Mantle of Winnipeg (later Mrs. Napier of Regina) who addressed the delegates on “The Delegate’s Duty After the Convention.” Miss Mantle helped to organize many clubs and returned to speak to at least four of the first 10 conventions.

Included on the program of that first convention were: “Experiences with Women’s Institutes in Ontario” by Mrs. Lorne Elliott of Winnipeg; “Growing Strawberries in Saskatchewan” Norman M. Ross of the Indian Head Forestry Farm; “Domestic Bookkeeping” Mrs. W. R. Motherwell; “Domestic Science Training for Saskatchewan Women” Hon. W. R. Motherwell (then Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture). Addresses on the care and propagation of house plants, the fattening and marketing of poultry, domestic water supply, and home nursing, and a cooking demonstration contributed to a varied program and gave the delegates a store of information to be used in their home and clubs.

The Saskatchewan Agricultural Societies were holding their convention in the City Hall in Regina and the Homemakers’ delegates were invited to attend their evening sessions. E. Cora Hind agricultural editor of the Free Press, was attending the men’s sessions and came to the women’s meeting to speak on kitchen conveniences. She spoke of a mechanical dishwasher, reported to be cheap, simple of operation and economical of water, but said later that the only comment she carried away was “No machine could wash dishes clean enough for me.” She brought with her a big dishpan heaped with household gadgets which she said should be in every kitchen—all for two dollars.

Nellie McClung spoke to the women about the “Importance of Social Life in Country Homes.” Twenty-five years later she was to return to the Silver Jubilee convention to say to the Homemakers words which still have significance:

“Before we can speak of what we have learned we have to make these confessions of our disillusionments. We thought ma-

chines would lift the burdens of humanity and so they did. They cast drudgery from mankind, but took away the means of livelihood. Man is faced with the fact that his own ingenuity has defeated him. He is like the man who made a clever lock for a door and shut himself out of his own house.

"This new age requires a new morality. Work kept people in the pathway of righteousness. The discipline of earning a living was heavy on us. But in this new age with its possibilities and its heartaches and disillusionment, there has to come a new compulsion, a new care for others, a new fountain of happiness in seeing the welfare of your neighbor. The boundaries of life are pushing back—a flood is rising around us."

The plans of the college of agriculture of the University of Saskatchewan for assisting the Homemakers' Clubs were outlined by Mr. Auld at the first convention. He said:

"The college aims to make the Homemakers' Clubs the means of great assistance to the women of Saskatchewan. We need an organization in which all the women of the province can unite and work together without feeling a restraint on account of racial or religious differences. We want all the women of a district to meet on common ground, each imbued with a desire to promote the interests of the home and the community."

Even earlier than 1910, groups of rural and small town women had felt the need of some organization that would draw them together socially and give them opportunities to discuss questions of mutual interest. Among these early groups were the Prosperity Homekeepers' Society in the Rocanville district which six women organized in 1907 and the Open Door Circle of Mair organized in 1909. After the organization of the Homemakers, these and other pioneer societies decided to change their names and affiliate with the Saskatchewan Homemakers.

To the name chosen at the first convention the Homemakers have clung affectionately and stubbornly. The objective stated at that time is still the goal of the Homemakers. Now, as then, the organization recognizes no dividing lines of creed or politics.

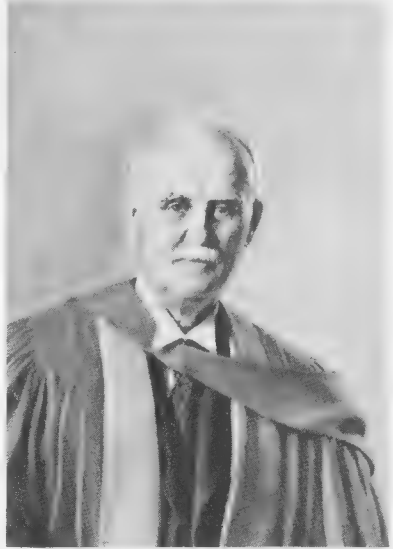


NELLIE MCCLUNG

## THE FIRST YEARS

The Homemakers' organization grew rapidly. From the beginning the new societies owed much to the active encouragement of Dr. W. C. Murray, President of the University of Saskatchewan. The 1912 convention was held in Saskatoon in February and each year thereafter Homemakers have met in convention at the University of Saskatchewan in May or June. The association with the university has been valued throughout the years. Homemakers look upon it as "our university." President Murray's interest in the Homemakers continued and a visit to the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Murray became a feature of the annual convention.

With the growth of the work it was found necessary to place the supervision of the women's groups in the hands of a qualified woman director. In 1913 a tiny Irish woman from Ontario who was teaching home economics in the public schools in Moose Jaw, Miss Abigail DeLury, was asked to become director of women's work in the extension department of the university. Under her wise and kindly leadership the Homemakers grew from a small group of clubs to an organization with branches all over Saskatchewan. They became known for their work in promoting good homemaking and neighborly living, good citizenship and interest in all phases of adult education.



DR. W. C. MURRAY

For 17 years Miss DeLury served as director and when the Homemakers reached their 25th anniversary she wrote from Ontario:

"Three qualities of Homemakers' work stand out clearly to me: effort based on what seemed to be vital needs, getting at the heart of things as they were, not a blind following in beaten tracks; an adherence to the open mind—the great path to true progress—which manifested itself as a general characteristic of the rural women of Saskatchewan; a hopefulness and energy which remained under the most trying and depressing circumstances."

By 1914 there were 140 Homemakers' clubs with a membership in the vicinity of 6,000.

Then came the first World War and clubs turned their energies to sewing and knitting, to packing parcels and working for relief funds, to working for the Red Cross.



Even in the war years there were other challenges to be met—the needs of communities growing up in a young country—and when the war was over more attention was given these. In a booklet published covering the 1910-1920 period clubs reported the opening of rest rooms, the beginning of libraries, the holding of horticultural fairs, support of hospitals and nursing services, and a tremendous contribution to the social life of their communities. Much of the study done by clubs was focussed on better housekeeping skills and the care of children and of the sick, but clubs also reported studying school laws and laws affecting women and children, the history of the province and women's suffrage.



ABIGAIL DELURY

One club reported "Our women have become accustomed to expressing their ideas in an intelligent manner, they have become familiar with parliamentary law and can conduct a meeting in public without timidity. They have learned to think for themselves on national issues and have gained in self-reliance and self-control."

Dr. Murray wrote in a foreword to the 1920 booklet:

"After 10 years of experiment there can be no question of the value of the Homemakers' Clubs. That they have grown in numbers and usefulness during the trying times of war, is evidence of their stability and of the great service they are rendering the communities in which they came into being. They represent the growing sentiment that women have a place and a duty to perform for the good of the community as well as the home. These clubs have never sought political objects, but have directed their efforts to forming public opinion and to directing and stimulating that opinion to support movements or proposals that look toward the betterment of social conditions."

In the same booklet, W. J. Rutherford, Dean of Agriculture of the University of Saskatchewan, one of the men who had been present at the first meeting where the question of a women's work organization had been discussed, wrote:

"The Homemakers of Saskatchewan, since their organization 10 years ago, have done much. They have created a greater interest in the making and maintaining of the home; in planting trees,

shrubs, flowers, fruits and gardens; in making the community a better place to live in; in making the school and its surroundings a fitter place for the education of boys and girls, in school lunches, school and home nursing; in establishing home and community libraries; in the creation of a Saskatchewan spirit. They have contributed much to the well-being, not only of the communities in which they live—their influence has extended far afield. New communities not so blessed as theirs, so far as material things go, have benefitted from well packed boxes of books and clothing and from their purses as well. They have linked up in a very effective way nearly two hundred communities with the College of Agriculture and the University. They have sent many young men and young women to the University whose careers have been marked by distinction, and whose influences have reflected credit upon the homes and the communities from which they came.”

The constitution drawn up at the first convention had outlined the structure of local clubs and also envisioned organization on a district and provincial level. By 1922 district conventions were being held. The honor of being the first elected president fell to Mrs. W. F. Cameron of Davidson, whose term of office covered the years 1918-1923, with a vacancy from 1920-21. At that time the duty of the president was mainly to act at the annual convention and occasionally to be ready to address meetings or to act in an advisory capacity.

The year 1919 also brought affiliation with the national organization, the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, and Mrs. W. F. Cameron was elected to be recording secretary.

### HOME ECONOMICS SCHOLARSHIPS

These years brought, too, an interest in the home economics department at the University of Saskatchewan which was to continue throughout the years. Mrs. Rutter, household science instructor at the university, was a guest speaker at the 1917 and 1918 conventions and in 1920 delegates decided to establish a scholarship for the maintenance of a student in the teachers' household science course, with the understanding that the teacher work at least three years in a non-English district. Clubs raised the money for the scholarship and it was awarded in 1922 and 1923.

In 1925 the idea of a Homemakers' Club Scholarship was revived, but on a different basis. The amount of the scholarship was \$50 and five annual awards were made.

In 1931 another change was made in the conditions of the award. A prize of \$50 was to be awarded annually for general proficiency in the first year of the course in Household Science. Candidates were nominated by Homemakers' Clubs. This scholarship was increased to \$100 in 1951 and is awarded on enrollment for the second year in home economics. Thirty Saskatchewan girls have benefitted from these scholarships.

In 1958 an entrance scholarship was made available for girls entering the college of home economics at the University of Saskatchewan. All Saskatchewan girls, except those from Saskatoon and Regina, are eligible to apply for this scholarship of \$200. The award is based on scholarship, suitability to the profession of home economics and need.

Many districts, also, have offered prizes and scholarships to encourage girls to study home economics.

Homemakers entered their second 10 years a vital force in the life of a growing province. Communities had many needs and with these the clubs struggled. They helped to secure nursing homes and nurses, they organized clinics so that children might have diseased tonsils and defective teeth removed, they assisted the sanatoria and worked toward the establishment of restricted areas where cattle had been tested in order that bovine tuberculosis might be eradicated. It was said that the first question of a public health nurse on going to a new town would be "Have you a Homemakers' Club?"

By 1928 there were 228 clubs and 59 per cent of them had secured small libraries for their communities, either travelling boxes of books or permanent collections. Fifty-two per cent of the clubs had helped to establish and maintain rest rooms and halls. In 1928 clubs took 90 short courses in dressmaking and millinery and "house-wifery."

This year, too, the Homemakers set up a special committee to study immigration. But by 1930 drought and depression had come to the prairies and the immigration report prepared by Mrs. F. G. Strayer of Drinkwater referred to the critical situation regarding unemployment. This convention expressed its regret at the death of Dean W. J. Rutherford, Dean of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan throughout the early years of the Homemakers. Delegates heard with regret the announcement of the resignation of Miss DeLury, first director of the Homemakers' Clubs.



MISS BERTHA OXNER

New director was Miss Bertha Oxner, a native of Nova Scotia, who, after teaching school in Saskatchewan, graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Arts degree and later took her Master of Arts at the University of Chicago. She studied household science at Guelph, Ontario, at Columbia University and London University. In 1925 she came to the University of Saskatchewan as assistant professor of household science and in 1930 took over as director of women's extension work at the University, beginning her task in the lean years.

She remained as director until 1949. Testimony to her continued interest in Saskatchewan Homemakers is evidenced by word recently received from Chester, Nova Scotia, that the terms of her will made available to the organization a bequest of \$500 to be used for scholarships or club projects.

### THE LEAN YEARS

Commenting on the work and courage of members of the Homemakers Clubs through the lean years Miss Oxner said "This was their finest hour." Clubs rallied to give much time and energy to relief work, making local contributions to needy cases in their own neighborhoods, collecting supplies and sending them to districts in greater need than their own. They worked with the Saskatchewan relief commission, which expressed its deep appreciation of the help given by the Homemakers.

The number of clubs grew. By 1932 there were 265, the great increase being in northern districts where clubs were organized by Homemakers moving from drought-stricken districts in the south.

Recognizing that man does not live by bread alone, the Homemakers supported musical festivals, they arranged evenings of community entertainment. In 1935, 68 clubs reported the presentation of plays by members. In the autumn of 1935 a drama competition was incorporated in a district convention program for the first time, and other districts followed suit. Many clubs raised funds to buy a piano for the local school. Oratorical contests, with competitors from a number of adjacent rural school districts, were held.

An interesting club activity of these years was the holding of small fairs, with entries of vegetables, butter, home cooking and sewing, and many other classes that varied from community to community.

In 1936 the first provincial essay competition among Homemakers Clubs was arranged, through the generosity of the T. Eaton Co. of Winnipeg. Keen interest was shown and some of the topics through the years were "Improvement in Community Life," "Creation of Beauty in the Community," "Methods of Adapting Our School System to Meet Present Needs."

The continuing education of the Homemaker herself began to receive increasing emphasis. In the autumn of 1936 the first parcels of books for reading courses were sent out from the university and



received enthusiastically. Some clubs used a new reading course each year.

The first holiday school in Homemaking was held at the Swift Current Experimental Farm in the summer of 1938. Members of the farm staff gave lessons in poultry and gardening and instructors taught home economics and directed recreation activities.

### WORK WITH RURAL GIRLS

It was during this period that a tradition of work with rural girls was established.

A number of junior Homemakers' Clubs had been established, with members between 15 and 21 years of age, and some of these continued till 1942. Each June Homemakers' Clubs sent girls to Farm Girls' Week at the University of Saskatchewan. They soon provided some of the prizes. In 1928, 120 girls registered for their Week, with Homemakers' Clubs doing most of the sponsoring.

Drought and depression restricted the country girls' opportunities. The Homemakers co-operated with the Department of Women's Work to plan programs for girls. Correspondence lessons in sewing with made-up models used by local leaders were organized. Six groups took them in 1933, 42 in 1935. An advanced sewing course, conducted by local leaders trained by a university demonstrator and a nutrition course of six lessons were used by other groups. In the summer of 1933 two 10-day courses for girls were held. Local school boards, Homemakers district executives and the university co-operated in the arrangements. In 1935 eight such schools were held with 247 girls attending.

In the early spring of 1936 Homemakers were asked to help in starting Homecraft clubs for rural girls. The Homemakers spent many hours in attendance at leaders' conferences, in learning new types of work that might in turn be taught to the girls, in helping with plans for local and district achievement days. Of the 190 Homecraft clubs in Saskatchewan in 1939 there were 110 under the guidance of Homemakers' Clubs.

When the Dominion-Provincial Youth Training program began Homemakers were honored by having their provincial president, Mrs. A. J. Currie, appointed as one of the five members of the Women's Advisory Committee to the National Employment Committee. As the only rural woman on the committee, Mrs. Currie was able to render a unique contribution. After the committee had submitted its reports, Mrs. Currie was asked to continue as federal advisor on girls' projects in Saskatchewan.

The work for rural girls directed by the Department of Women's Work of the University of Saskatchewan was planned to carry out the recommendations of the women's advisory committee. In the first two years more than 5,000 rural girls had the benefit of additional training, varying in length from five days to five months. Homemakers' Clubs played a major part in the promotion of this program, particularly in making local arrangements for classes.

Clubs were gradually assuming more responsibility for the conduct of their own affairs. In 1926 for the first time the convention secretary was a Homemakers' Club member rather than a member of the extension staff. At first the university had helped to pay expenses of delegates to the annual provincial convention but during the continued depression financial assistance from the university gradually decreased. In 1936 the clubs paid all their convention expenses. The standing committees which had been set up in the different fields of study were correlated from provincial convener to district convener and the convener in the individual clubs. By 1936 the province was divided into 20 districts, each holding an annual district convention. The year 1931 had seen a revision of the advisory council to include the director, president, vice-president, secretary, and four additional members to be elected from four provincial divisions.

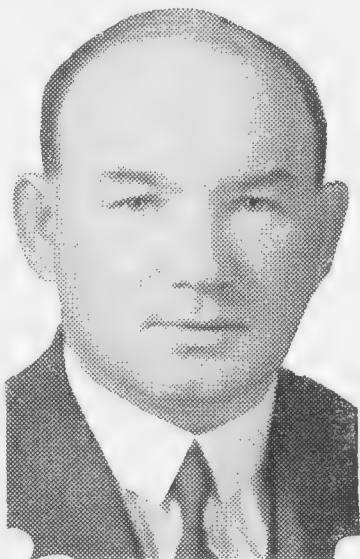
Still in the difficult days the Homemakers held a Jubilee Convention marking their 25th anniversary, recorded 352 clubs with a membership of approximately 7,325, and began the preparation of the Jubilee booklet, "Retrospect and Prospect."

By 1938 when Dr. W. C. Murray retired as President of the University the number of clubs had risen to 392, the number of members to 7,900.

The Jubilee booklet was not published until 1939 and in it the new President, Dr. J. S. Thomson wrote:

"We are glad and proud of our close association with the Homemakers. For the home is the most permanent and important of all social institutions. Here, at the University, we aim not only at professional and academic education, but also at the development of character. But, we can only build on a foundation already laid. Similarly throughout our province, such lively questions as the quality of crops, the price of wheat, and improved agriculture are not ends in themselves. They have meaning only in terms of human welfare. Our social structure would be incomplete without a plan for the culture of the home."

Interests of Homemakers' Clubs had widened and there was



DR. J. S. THOMSON



an especial desire for a better understanding of world relations. This was partly a result of World War I and partly because of affiliation with such international groups as the Associated Country Women of the World.

In 1936 Mrs. A. L. Spencer, the provincial convener of international relations, attended the annual meeting of the League of Nations Society in Canada held at Ottawa.

By 1939 war clouds were darkening and delegates to the annual convention passed resolutions asking for the prohibition of the export of war materials to aggressor nations and the nationalization of the manufacture of war supplies.

But war came and the 1940 convention took for its theme: "Manning the Home Front." With 425 clubs and a membership of 8625 the Homemakers set out to raise a special war fund. By 1941 this had paid for two beds in the Red Cross Hospital at Taplow, England, and the next year a mobile kitchen was purchased for the use of the Canadian Red Cross. More money was raised and sent to the Navy League of Canada and to the Women's Voluntary Service of Great Britain, who bought bicycles, bicycle trailers and potato cookers with the gift from Saskatchewan Homemakers. In 1941 the Homemakers were represented at a meeting which studied the placement of British children in Saskatchewan. Clubs co-operated in the collection of salvage, such as fat and paper, sent regular reports to the Consumers' Branch of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, and supported the Red Cross Blood Donor Service. Members made ditty bags, wrote letters, and packed parcels for the boys overseas.

When delegates met in the 1945 convention the European war was over, but it was decided to continue the wartime fund in order to help with rehabilitation in Great Britain and Europe and also to take part in the national campaign to ship clothing to the devastated countries of Europe.

"Swords Into Ploughshares" was the theme for the 1946 convention. There it was reported that clubs were studying provisions for the training of discharged persons, completing honor rolls, contributing to war memorials (often these took the form of hospitals or community centres), giving welcome home parties and showers for overseas brides.

They continued, through many agencies, to give assistance to the victims of war, and broadened their giving to include the needy in other lands. Some clubs "adopted" overseas orphans, some sent donations to CARE or the Save the Children Fund, some sold Christmas cards or organized Hallowe'en shell-outs for UNICEF, others sewed layettes or collected used clothing for the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada. They supported World Refugee Year. They learned of other countries, wrote to letter friends in far-off lands, studied the Declaration of Human Rights, sent young

people to the United Nations seminar at Qu'Appelle. In later years, conscious of the threat to peace, Homemakers have had representatives at civil defence courses at Arnprior and Qu'Appelle and in 1959 convention delegates urged the Canadian government to use its influence to bring about national agreements to stop the testing of nuclear weapons.

### NEW CHALLENGES

In times of depression and of prosperity, in peace and in war, the adult education work of the Homemakers' Clubs continued, in one form or another—increasing the knowledge of the club member so that she might be a better homemaker and a better citizen. Service to the community continued. Even while meeting the challenges of the war years Homemakers recognized a responsibility for developing and maintaining the institutions and customs considered essential to a democracy.

More and more the Homemakers were asked to take part in provincial conferences. In 1942 when the provincial government wished to make plans for dealing with labor problems the Homemakers' president was one of three women in the group of 40 who were asked to attend. In 1945 representatives began service on the Saskatchewan Farm Home Committee and on the Saskatchewan Educational Council.

In 1946 a brief was presented to the Health Services Survey Committee and many of the Homemakers' recommendations were included in the survey committee's report. While some of the problems of nursing care and doctor's services that troubled clubs in the early days were now solved, there still seemed no end to useful health projects. Clubs studied the health region setup, assisted hospitals and clinics, studied sanitation and nutrition, and followed the developments in the field of mental health. In 1956 at the provincial convention a panel discussed mental health and delegates passed a resolution asking the government to change the setup of mental hospitals in the province and provide regional units—one of their requests which they have yet to see become a reality. The amount of work on the local level is shown by the fact that in 1958 the public health convenor reported 367 projects in this field during the year.

The widening horizons of the



MISS ALICE STEVENS

Homemakers' Clubs and the fact that "new occasions teach new duties" was noted in the theme of the 1947 convention. "The Changing Community Challenges the Homemakers" and the 1948 theme "Homemakers as World Citizens." Illustrative of the wide interest and influence of the organization was the request, in 1947, from the Saskatchewan government that Homemakers prepare a brief for presentation to the freight rate inquiry board. The brief prepared by Mrs. M. Wade of Glenbush was highly commended by the commissioners for its clarity and moderation. Later the Homemakers were asked to prepare another for the Royal Commission on Transportation and this also was Mrs. Wade's work.

The year 1949 brought a memorable convention. For the second time since the organization of the national body the FWIC biennial board met in convention with the Saskatchewan Homemakers. The convention also welcomed Mrs. Raymond Sayre of Ackworth, Iowa, head of their international body, the Associated Country Women of the World. Delegates met, also, the new president of the university, Dr. W. P. Thompson, who for many years had been the head of the university's arts and science college.

Dr. Thompson told delegates that it was with regret he had to announce that the board of governors of the university had found it necessary to cut drastically the budget for the Department of Women's Work.

Homemakers had continued to assume more of the conduct of their own organization and various members were acting as representatives on the advisory councils of other organizations: the Red Cross, the Anti-Tuberculosis League, the Agricultural Representative Service, and the Agricultural Committee to the Canadian Association of Consumers.

The year 1949 brought a change in directors. Professor Bertha Oxner retired after 19 years as director of women's work and was succeeded by Miss Alice Stevens who came to Saskatchewan from British Columbia. There she had taught school and was in charge of the laboratories and public relations for a canning company. Miss Stevens was born and grew up in Hamiota, Manitoba, and a graduate of M.A.C., University of Manitoba.

Clubs contributed money to send Miss Oxner to the triennial



DR. W. P. THOMPSON

conference of A.C.W.W. in Copenhagen as a parting gift from the Homemakers.

The year 1950 saw the Homemakers represented in many fields: on the advisory council of the College of Agriculture of the University, the advisory committee to the Health Services Planning Committee, the Provincial Film Board. They sent representatives to the Provincial Council of Women, the Canadian Association of Consumers Conference in Ottawa. The request from the minister of education that a representative of the Homemakers work on an advisory committee for revision of the elementary curriculum was typical of the development of Homemakers' work. Homemakers' clubs had long been concerned with education and in the early days had done much to help the small rural school. But the changing rural scene had brought changes in this field, too, and 1942 had found the provincial convention passing a resolution that all clubs make a study of the larger school unit and the new school division act. In 1949 Homemakers expressed to the department of education the opinion that more time on the school course should be available for oral and written composition. In the next year they were invited to advise on curriculum revision. They were serving, also, on the Practical Education Committee.

Homemakers were becoming a mature organization. The year 1951 saw the formation of a unique group, an association of past presidents with Mrs. H. Ducie of Dundurn as president and Mrs. E. Given of Prince Albert as secretary. The purpose was to continue work for the organization and to place on record that their services and experience could be drawn on for the benefit of the Homemakers' Clubs.

The following year saw the Homemakers determining that a member of the advisory council should attend each district convention, with expenses paid from the central fund. This year saw the institution of a leadership class at the provincial convention, for district delegates, provincial conveners and members of the advisory council. This convention, the 42nd annual, was the largest to date. The 1953 convention heard a report that over 400 women had attended the various leadership courses held in Homemakers' districts throughout the province.

News of the death of Miss Stevens, who had been director for only three years and who had suffered a prolonged illness, came to the Homemakers in 1952.

Miss Margaret Pattillo, who had joined the department in 1946, became director of women's services and it is working with her that Homemakers now prepare to celebrate their Golden Jubilee. A graduate home economist, Miss Pattillo taught in her home town, Truro, Nova Scotia, for several years, and during the war served in the R. C. A. F. as messing officer.

\* \* \* \*

So rapid and far-reaching were the changes in agriculture and rural life in Saskatchewan that the government set up a Royal

Commission to study the subject. In 1953 clubs answered questionnaires from which were compiled a brief for the Commission. Some of its recommendations were: the setting up of district home economist service, that the allotment to the women's service of the university extension department be sufficient to ensure carrying out provincial programs and organization work related to Homemakers and homemaking, that all extension services for women be amalgamated under the women's services. Club members also answered a questionnaire on rural homes to assist the commission in preparing that section of the report. Homemakers took much pride in the fact that Mrs. W. J. Adams, former president, was the only woman member of the commission.

Preparations were now being made for the 50th birthday of Saskatchewan in 1955 and as their special contribution, the Homemakers' Clubs compiled a Jubilee cookbook, "From Saskatchewan Homemakers' Kitchens" dedicated to the women of yesterday. To gather the recipes requests were sent out to the various Homemakers' districts in Saskatchewan asking them to undertake certain sections. So successful was this venture that the Homemakers' cookbook can be found in many countries. 27,500 copies were sold, and the cookbook is still selling.

In 1958, because of its increasing responsibilities, the name of the advisory board was changed to executive board and the number of divisional representatives increased from four to six.

\* \* \* \*

Through the later years the Homemakers have continued their long established custom of generously giving a helping hand. They helped to meet emergencies at home and abroad by contributing to the flood relief funds in Manitoba, in British Columbia, in Britain, Holland and Ceylon. In 1957 their charitable donations to provincial, national and international projects totalled \$11,000. That same year the total for various community projects and the support of community activity was \$19,000. And as they help, for instance, mental health or cancer funds, they also study these problems.

Club activities keep changing to meet the changing times. Once Homemakers arranged for travelling libraries, now they help to spearhead movements for regional libraries. Sponsoring of handicraft festivals in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Arts Board or Better Meetings Institutes with the Adult Education Division or Citizen Workshops with the Canadian Citizenship Branch, are activities possible only with modern roads and transportation. Electrification field days are an example of one of the new interests. Clubs continue to try to further the study of home economics but the resolution passed in 1954 asking that a supervisor of home economics be appointed to the vocational education branch of the department of education is one of the Homemakers' Clubs unsatisfied desires. Club workshops, meetings of representatives of clubs within driving distance of a centre give club officers and members an opportunity to take a discerning look at their programs and



activities and to exchange ideas on the procedures of club work. New are the conveners' courses, a new scheme for the training of conveners. Last year they were for home economics conveners, this year others will be included. Junior Homemakers' clubs were discontinued back in 1942 but support of 4-H Homecraft clubs continues.

Today the clubs have six affiliations: the national body, FWIC, the international, the Associated Country Women of the World, the Provincial Council of Women, the United Nations Society in Canada, the Canadian Welfare Council and the Canadian Association for Adult Education. Their fields of work have been co-ordinated under the following standing committees: agriculture and Canadian industry, arts and literature, education, home economics, international relations, legislation and citizenship, and public health. Clubs now number 302 with a membership of about 4,700, a reflection of the diminishing rural population, rather than of lack of vitality. There are 26 districts, each holding an annual convention.

In 1961, the Homemakers approach their Golden Jubilee knowing that there are tasks for them in the future as in the past. To quote Professor Margaret Pattillo:

"The interest in homes as a place where each member of the family develops as an individual person, gains comfort and strength to carry on his or her work in the world has not changed. The interest in making the community we live in into the best community possible has not changed even though we are realizing that "community" may have to mean the whole of mankind rather than people with faces and names we know. The fundamental reasons for women working and learning together are the same, and Homemakers can still look to their motto "For Home and Country" as meaningful—and a challenge. And, at least part of the challenge is that we have to know more than those in 1911 to cope with the many outside influences and changes that affect homes and communities in our restless world of 1961."

## NATIONAL AFFILIATION

Homemakers' Clubs were only eight years old when they became a part of the national organization, the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada.

The first Women's Institute had come into being in Ontario in February, 1897, and from Ontario had come much of the inspiration for the Homemakers' movement in Saskatchewan. The founder of the Women's Institute movement was Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless of Hamilton. Her baby son died at the age of 18 months. When she learned that her baby's death was caused by contaminated milk, she was shocked that she could have been so negligent. The great goal of her life became "the education of better mothers to make better homes."

In the winter of 1896 a young farmer from Stoney Creek, Erland Lee, heard Mrs. Hoodless argue that if men could find benefit from



banding together to work and study, women could do likewise. Impressed, he asked her to speak at a meeting in Stoney Creek. The upshot was the first Women's Institute.

Twenty-two years later the movement had spread across Canada and an interprovincial conference was called at Winnipeg and the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada was formed.

The federation hoped to achieve a national unity of purpose, to act as a clearing-house, receiving reports from the different provinces, keeping provinces aware of work done elsewhere, and also to initiate national programs for work and study.

From the beginning representatives of the Saskatchewan Homemakers played their part in FWIC. Mrs. W. F. Cameron, then of Davidson, later of Regina, was a charter member and served as recording secretary of FWIC from 1919 to 1922. Mrs. Cameron represented Saskatchewan on the national board, served as national convener of legislation from 1929 to 1933, when she was made a life member of FWIC.

Mrs. A. J. Chambers of Shellbrook, a director for Saskatchewan for two years, became treasurer in 1925, and in 1929 gave up that office and served as corresponding secretary until 1933.

Mrs. P. Collier, then of Bracken, now of Vancouver, was elected vice-president in 1943. Mrs. J. W. Adams of Ethelton became president in 1953 and completed two terms as president at the first national convention in 1957.

One of the Saskatchewan Homemakers who contributed a great deal to the national organization was Mrs. W. L. Clark of Conquest who became secretary-treasurer in 1953 and held this office until her death in 1960.

Throughout the years the FWIC held biennial board meetings and in 1929 and 1949 these were held at the University of Saskatchewan in conjunction with the convention of the Homemakers, resulting in increased awareness of their national affiliation on the part of the members of the Homemakers' Clubs.

For Saskatchewan's Nancy Adams the first national meeting of FWIC was the realization of a dream for which she had worked tirelessly and the Saskatchewan delegates worked hard to make the convention a success. Another special project for Mrs. Adams was the establishment of a national office. The provinces contributed toward a foundation fund for this office and in this Saskatchewan helped. The national office was opened in Ottawa in 1958.

For many years the Saskatchewan Homemakers have taken part in the FWIC Tweedsmuir competitions. While Lady Tweedsmuir was in Canada as the wife of the Governor-General she took a great interest in rural women. On the occasion of the Homemakers' Silver Jubilee, she wrote: "Their mission seems to be this: to apply the principles of clear thinking to improving the conditions under which the rural people live; to promote every kind of cultural

activity, like music, painting, sculpture, poetry; and by thinking out problems clearly and carefully, and by looking ahead and planning, to make life a better thing for everybody."

On her return to England in 1945 she gave three cups to the FWIC to be awarded for the best history of a community, a cultural project, a handicraft.

Many Saskatchewan clubs have written the history of their communities under the stimulus of this competition. Not only did they thus set down this history before the pioneers had passed on, but they encouraged other groups to do likewise and furthered the writing of histories for Saskatchewan's Jubilee Year. Ethelton and Pense clubs have both won the Tweedsmuir cup for a community history. Winners in the handicraft project have been: Highgate for a rug (1949); Pense for a rug (1951) and a girls' outfit (1955); Conquest for a quilt (1953).

A newer FWIC competition is in the citizenship field, the trophy being donated by Senator Corrine Wilson in 1957 and Saskatchewan Homemakers prepared entries for 1959 and 1961.



LADY TWEEDSMUIR

Saskatchewan Homemakers in 1960 had the pleasure of entertaining Mrs. Graham Spry, FWIC, representative to ACWW.

Saskatchewan Homemakers have participated in a number of FWIC projects. The FWIC was the first organization to buy a plot after the International Peace Garden was established and Saskatchewan Homemakers have continued to make a contribution to this.

In 1950 the Saskatchewan convention theme was "The soil of today is the hope of tomorrow" in keeping with the FWIC's current study of conservation. Homemakers shared in the pride of FWIC members across Canada when in June, 1955, the Tory Award was presented to FWIC and accepted by the national president, Saskatchewan's Nancy Adams. It was given for an outstanding contribution to adult education in Canada with the citation: "The FWIC are to be commended for a unique contribution to the lives of thousands of Canadians, for the improvement of community life and for service abroad."

Homemakers participated in the special study of nutrition in 1959 made under the caption "Eat to Live." Questionnaires were sent out because of surveys showing malnutrition in some parts of Canada because of lack of knowledge on the part of housewives. They took part, also, in the national radio and television survey.

Last year Mrs. M. L. Rempel of Nipawin, Saskatchewan Homemaker serving as convener of United Nations and Exchange Programs for the FWIC went to Jamaica as a member of the Cultural Commission to Jamaica sent by the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO.

At present Saskatchewan Homemakers are taking part in the FWIC project of purchase of UNESCO gift coupons to provide money for books and materials for the University of the West Indies extension service.

Another FWIC project is the preparation of "Canadian Mosaic" which it is hoped to complete by Canada's centennial year. A Saskatchewan committee, convened by Mrs. Rutherford of Govan, is now studying the contribution of ethnic groups in Saskatchewan. And in this Jubilee Year, Homemakers will take part in the second national convention of FWIC to be held in Vancouver in July.

## FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

**C**ONGRATULATIONS and special greetings to the Homemakers' Clubs of Saskatchewan, while celebrating their Golden Jubilee.

Fifty years ago life demanded self-reliance and initiative and the ability to make daily decisions to meet the local needs.

Today the demands are the same, yet our interests have stretched to the far corners of the World.

Lady Elliott while addressing the Associated Country Women of the World Conference in Edinburgh, said "It is women who set the standard of community life in a country."

The members of the Homemakers' Clubs have set a very high standard for "Home and Country" in Saskatchewan, and have through the years made fine contributions to the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, through the members who have held office in the national organization. A special tribute goes to Dr. Nancy Adams who is making an outstanding contribution to the international organization, the Associated Country Women of the World.

With such a history of achievement, the Homemakers' Clubs will go forward to a future of special significance.



MRS. E. J. ROYLANCE  
Greenwood, B.C.

—MILDRED I. ROYLANCE.

## LINKED INTERNATIONALLY

It is fitting that Saskatchewan Homemakers with their recognition of their responsibilities as citizens, not only of their own communities, province and country, but of the world, should be part of the rural women's international organization, the Associated Country Women of the World.

The aim of ACWW is to develop sympathetic understanding and mutual helpfulness between the country women's and homemakers' association of all nations, to further the common interests of these groups and to encourage the formation of such groups where such are needed and do not exist.

The ACWW met for their first conference on this side of the Atlantic in 1936 and Mrs. A. J. Currie of Govan, then Homemakers' president, attended and brought home accounts of what she had seen and heard. In 1939 Mrs. A. G. Hanson of Clavet attended the conference in London.

Interest in the ACWW was somewhat in the background during the war years, but was revived and intensified, after Mrs. T. Wright of Richard attended the conference in Amsterdam and reported to the 1948 convention. The ACWW president, Mrs. Sayre, was a guest at the Saskatchewan convention in 1949.

Saskatchewan had its full quota of delegates at the 1950 meeting in Copenhagen. Three years later Canada was the hostess to the ACWW triennial and a large group of Saskatchewan Homemakers



attended as delegates and visitors, bringing back reports to local clubs and to the convention. Some of the delegates from other lands journeyed across Canada and visited in Saskatchewan and before long many Homemakers had the opportunity of meeting the new international president, Mrs. Alice Berry from Australia.

Even when the conference was held in far-off Ceylon Saskatchewan Homemakers had a full quota of delegates plus visitors and the reports, vivid with personal recollections and illustrated by slides of the conference proceedings and of the beautiful island itself, intensified the very real interest in ACWW and its objectives. Saskatchewan Homemakers were especially interested because they had participated in the UNESCO gift coupon scheme organized by ACWW to equip training centres for the Lanka Mahila Samiti, the Women's Institutes of Ceylon. So there is in Ceylon a training centre for rural girls called Saskatchewan Centre.

The last conference attended was in Scotland and delegates again brought back full reports.

Saskatchewan Homemakers take pride that their Nancy Adams is area vice-president for Canada.

Current ACWW project in which they are assisting is the Lady Aberdeen Scholarship through which ACWW members hope to help leaders among women in the rapidly developing countries to get training. Then they will return to their own women to help them. Thus Saskatchewan women are helping to set a pattern that may mean better lives for millions of people.

Saskatchewan Homemakers maintain an ACWW travel fund in order to send members to conferences, pay a small affiliation fee, and contribute to Pennies for Friendship. There is a little ritual at every district convention when the pennies are donated, a ritual that helps Homemakers to remember that the gift is a token of love and good will and reminds them that "No man is an island, entire of itself. Every man is a piece of the continent—a part of the main."



FROM SASKATCHEWAN'S REPRESENTATIVE  
TO ACWW

MRS. FREEBORN'S invitation to write to Homemakers for their fiftieth Jubilee delights me. My visits to them are a highlight and I know how they have kept pace with the remarkable development of Canada itself.

Miss Oxner laid firm foundations and she cultivated a wide outlook. During my visit, following the Toronto Conference, there was particular and mounting interest in the Associated Country Women of the World and in remote districts, members readily discussed world-wide women's concerns. Entries for the Tweedsmuir History competition had the impending Provincial Jubilee in view. For their practical share in public questions, Homemakers were always counted on.

I love the association with them, to which I have been privileged. Warmest wishes for the fiftieth Jubilee and their old aim of "betterment of our homes, the advancement of our people and the good of our country."

—HELENE DENEKE

"Gunfield" Norham Gardens  
Oxford, England

## FROM THE ACWW PRESIDENT

**T**O the members of the Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs on the happy occasion of their Golden Jubilee:

In this year several of the ACWW'S affiliated societies are celebrating their 50th anniversary. This is a cause of great joy and inspiration to those younger in years. To you all, it must be a cause of thankfulness and due pride, thankfulness for all that has come to you through this organization . . . pride in the many achievements in which you were able to participate and which have helped the women in Saskatchewan in their striving forward.

When there is a birthday in the family, all members celebrate this happy event. May I, on behalf of the ACCW family, extend to you our sincere wishes for a happy celebration in which we join our thoughts.

As a personal wish for the well-being of your clubs and their members—"May you all be blessed."

—GEERDA VAN BEEKHOFF.



MRS. G. J. VAN BEEKHOFF  
VAN SALMS

Landzicht, Kerk-Avezaath (Betuwe)  
The Netherlands.



